

Message Text

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65L

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 EUR-12 IGA-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 AGR-05 /060 W

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O R 052040Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6631

INFO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PANAMA 0877

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, PN

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

REF: A) 75 STATE 303837; B) STATE 020861 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY OFFICERS MET WITH AGRICULTURE VICE-MINISTER GUSTAVO GONZALEZ FEB 5 TO DISCUSS VICE-MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON IN JANUARY. GONZALEZ TALKED ABOUT HIS VISIT AT LENGTH, PRESENTING A SIMILAR SUMMARY TO THAT OUTLINED IN REF (B). IN RESPONSE TO PRESENTATION DRAWN FROM REF (B), VICE-MINISTER GONZALEZ INDICATED THAT PANAMA HAD BEEN CONSIDERING EXPORTING MEAT TO THE EC FOR SOME TIME, BUT THAT SEVERE LOGISTICS PROBLEMS MADE SUCH ACTION UNFEASIBLE UNLESS CARRIED OUT INCONJUNCTION WITH OTHER CENTRAL AMERICAN COUNTRIES. GOP AND MEAT EXPORTERS HAVE RECEIVED NO CONTACTS FROM EC MEAT IMPORTERS THUS FAR. GONZALEZ WAS INTERESTED IN RECEIVING ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE POSSIBILITY OF JOINT SHIPMENTS BY PANAMA AND COSTA RICA TO THE EC.

2. WHEN THE SUBJECT OF PANAMA'S PARTICIPATION IN THE 1976 VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT PROGRAM WAS RAISED, GONZALEZ REITERATED THAT BASE FORMULA WAS DISADVANTAGEOUS TO PANAMA. HE EXPECTED THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD RECOGNIZE PANAMA'S NEED TO UTILIZE ITS LARGE QUANTITIES OF MARGINAL AGRICULTURAL LAND FOR GRAZING IN AN EFFORT TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL

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DEVELOPMENT.

3. COMMENT: GONZALEZ CLEARLY SKEPTICAL THAT SALES TO EC CAN HELP WITH PANAMANIAN PROBLEM. HE INDICATED THAT PANAMA HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE TO COOPERATE IN THE MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM ON A BASIS WHICH IS FAIR AND EQUITABLE TO BOTH SIDES.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT REF B TO SAN JOSE FOR AGATT. GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 05 FEB 1976
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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